

# CARTSNEWS

*The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society*

ISSUE #30

May 2011

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**G**reetings to all CARTS members:

I hope your spring has sprung and that it has translated into new tokens for your collection. I have been busy beating the bushes since the first of the year and have some new tokens to show for it! See the new finds article for a few of my additions.

**If you haven't found any new additions to your own collection, don't despair. You'll have the chance on May 14th at our next CARTS meeting. The meeting will be held near Clinton, SC at exit 52 right off of Interstate 26. That's near the intersection of Interstates 26 and 385. The Days Inn is one of several hotels at that exit and has a meeting room perfect for our needs. The meeting will begin at 9am and will run to noon.** There are limited meal choices at that exit, but two miles away at the next exit is a Fatz Cafe which I think would be suitable for those who don't want to travel home on an empty stomach.

**See map on page 8 of this issue and don't forget to mark your calendars for May 14th!**

Tony Chibbaro  
CARTS President

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**W**ell, it's that time again.

Many of you have paid your 2011 dues; but many have not. If there is a red X in the box immediately below you should mail your dues check to Bob King ASAP. If not, this will be your last copy of CARTSNEWS. And nobody wants that!

And here goes the quarterly plea. Your editor needs articles, classified ads, letters to the editor, essentially anything related to tokens. In an attempt to generate publishable information, here's a question. Does anyone have any information regarding the jitney line operated by Zebulon Vance Costner between Shelby, NC and Rutherfordton, NC in the 1920's? Were tokens used? Let your editor know.

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know! **Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!**

# UNION

## SOUTH CAROLINA WANTED

### POSTCARDS, TOKENS, PAPER MONEY

William M. Graham  
106 Hidden Hill Road Union, SC 29379-9105  
864-427-9560 [wmg1260@gmail.com](mailto:wmg1260@gmail.com)

#### COTTON GIN BAILING-TAGS

Lamar Bland

In an earlier issue of CARTNEWS (May, 2007), I wrote about how baling-tags were used at The Champion Compress and Warehouse Company in Wilmington, N.C. Tags marked "Receiving" were attached to arriving loose bales. The more highly compressed bales, leaving Champion for shipment to weaving mills throughout the nation, received "Delivery" tags.

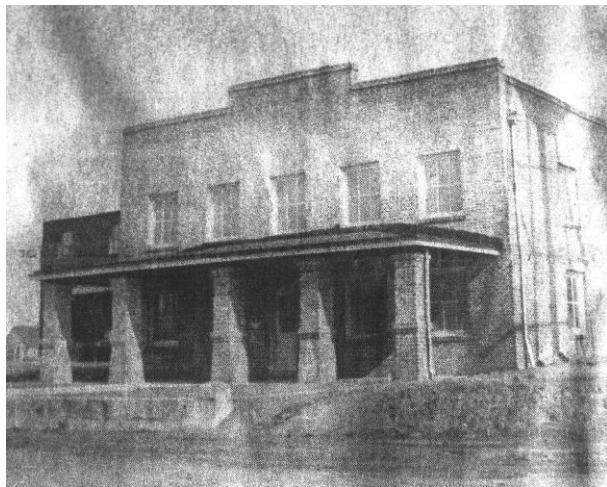
Smaller, ginning operations throughout the Carolinas also used tags. Because of such tags, I have learned more about this "grass roots" level of ginning—specifically as it occurred in Coats, in Harnett County, North Carolina. The tag in the photograph shown was used by The Coats Gin Company.



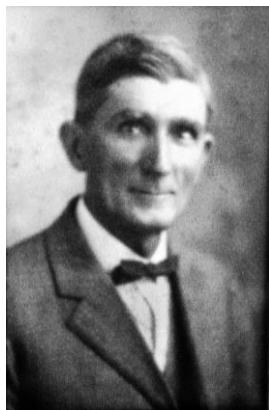
COATS / GIN CO. / COATS N. C.  
Red tin, 2.75 x 1.5 inches

The Coats Gin Company was founded by Fred A. Byrd soon after he returned from World War I—probably early in the 1920's. He purchased a building from his father, John M. Byrd, who had used it previously for his knitting factory. The building (no longer standing) is pictured below. A smaller image of the building exists, which shows the signage COATS GIN CO / FRED A. BYRD, OWNER

AND OPERATOR above the columns and second level windows.



**COATS GIN CO. BUILDING—FROM THE FRONT**



**JOHN BYRD**



**FRED BYRD**

Loose cotton arrived in horse-drawn buggies for the ginning. The buggies would be driven to the opening at the left of the building, where a large metal tube would vacuum the cotton and place it on a wide conveyor system inside. Seven or so employees triggered the gear wheels, strong belts, and fans which moved the cotton along. Seeds were separated from fiber by small "claws." The fiber finally fell into a large wooden bin where it was compressed. Metal bands were attached there, often by African-American employees, in one of the more dangerous parts of the process. Then the bale would receive the Coats Gin Co. tag. It was now ready for delivery to the

growers or the buyers. The photograph below implies the extent of that business in the side-yard as bales exited from the large opening.



**COATS GIN CO. BUILDING—FROM THE SIDE**

Because farmers planted crops throughout the neighboring countryside near Benson, Angier, and Buie's Creek, many, many bales came through. Records have not yet surfaced to indicate exactly how many—from the mid 1920's until the gin closed sometime in the 1960's. Other gins operated in Coats as well; owners included W.H. Wiggins, J.P. Stephens, P.F. Pope, T.V. Stewart, and N.T. Patterson. More gins were just down the road, in Grove and Turlington. Even in 1911, before Byrd's business, forty-two of them operated in the county. By the 1920's, annual records show tens of thousands of bales, with a record 50,000 bales known in 1926. While Byrd was in business, Harnett County became the state's sixth largest baler of cotton.

With so much production, in Harnett County and throughout the Carolinas, it is surprising how few ginning tags are visible today. In my several visits to the Coats Museum, to its wonderful Cotton Museum annex, and to the Historical Museum in Erwin (the nearest town where cotton cloth was manufactured in huge quantities), I could not find one. Nor did I meet anyone who remembered seeing them when the industry was in high gear. In spite of

their presumed large numbers, cotton gin tags seem to have disappeared on a scale proportionate with the disappearing buildings of the cotton industry.

This cultural loss of buildings and tags, however, has not been total. The Coats Gin Company had a smaller building where seeds from the ginned cotton were preserved. Pictured below, in a photograph from last February, the seed house still stands.



**THE SEED-HOUSE**

When I interviewed Cherie Short in Coats earlier this year, one of her fondest memories was the smell from the freshly ginned, wet cotton-seeds. The smell must have constantly been in the air during ginning season (late August through mid-November), wafting from the gin or the seed-house ventilation chimney. She often played among the cotton bales with neighboring children.

The seeds were a boon to the farmers, for cottonseed oil could be used in frying and for making lard and margarine. It had become an ingredient in cattle food in earlier farming history. An invoice from a Rutherford County (N.C.) gin in 1940 indicates that loads of cotton grossing 4,320 lbs in weight resulted in a 404 pound bale and 685 pounds of seeds.

Selling their baled cotton and seeds helped offset a farmer's ginning costs.

Samples of these products of a farmer's hard work are on display in the Cotton Annex of the Coats Museum. Below is a photograph of a bale produced around 1964 at the Turlington gin.



**COTTON BALE WITH BYRDS**

The size of the bale is suggested by the immense scale which weighs it. And by the two Byrd relatives on either side of the bale: Dot Byrd (left) and Cherie Byrd Short (right). Dot is Fred Byrd's daughter-in-law; Cherie, tall in height, is his granddaughter. I am indebted to them for their photographs and these details about the family business.

I also thank Gayle Sorrell and the staff of the Coats Museum who have preserved much of this historical data about county ginning. It includes the first-person account of operations inside the Coats Gin Co., given by Carsie Denning from his memory as a child in the 1930's. Gayle paraphrases Denning's account in greater detail in the volume *The Heritage of Harnett County*. The museum staff welcomes personal and group visits from anyone wanting to know more about this cultural history of their town and county.

## LONGTIME LATTA ARCADE MAVERICK FINDS NEW HOME IN CHARLOTTE

Tony Chibbaro

“Google's gift to token collectors” is a headline that I would like to see above some exonumia article soon. I have had this thought many times over the past couple of years, ever since the folks who operate the popular internet search engine embarked on a project to digitize old books for which the copyrights have expired. Many of these old books are of use to collectors researching maverick tokens. On their site, I have stumbled upon copies of old city directories and other types of mercantile and industrial listings, such as those cataloging lumber companies or drug stores. I have downloaded some of these directories onto my computer, which enables me to search them or print them out at will. It is one such druggist directory that provided an attribution for a maverick token I have had in my South Carolina collection for over 20 years.



The token pictured above was cataloged in *South Carolina Tokens* under the town of Latta and was given a special notation of “attribution tentative.” The reason for that designation was that I had been unable to find any information which proved the attribution to Latta. The 27mm octagonal aluminum token has the following inscription: THE BEATTY CO. / LATTA / ARCADE in three lines on the obverse, and SODA OR CIGARS / 5¢ in two lines on the reverse. Inclusion in the book rested solely upon the name Latta on the obverse.

In the intervening 20 years since the publication of the South Carolina book, I have intermittently searched for some scrap of information that would solidify the attribution, but was never able to find any proof.

Recently, however, I tried again and started with a simple Google search for the verbatim inscription on the obverse. Nothing was learned in my initial search, but I then tried a search just for the words “Latta Arcade”. This time I was rewarded with the information that there was a building in Charlotte by that name which had been renovated recently for commercial use. Taking a clue from the building's location, I then typed in “Beatty Co.” and “Charlotte” and was immediately rewarded with what I had been looking for. Google served up a page from a copy of a 1916 druggist's directory proving an attribution to Charlotte. There in black-and-white (see scan below) was the Beatty Co. with an address shown as Latta Arcade under the heading of Charlotte, NC. Mystery solved courtesy of the folks at Google!

**CHARLOTTE, Mecklenburg Co.  
Including N. Charlotte 34,014**

Beatty Co., Latta Arcade  
Beattie Co., R. A., 40 S. Tryon  
Belmont Ph'cy, 1 Belmont Av.  
(W. L. Pierce, Prop.)  
Blair Bros. & Co., 22 W. Trade  
Blake Drug Co., Jno., 21 Tryon  
Brooklyn Drug Co.,  
S. Drevard & 2nd  
Cook's Pharmacy, H. M.,  
301 N. Tryon  
Charlotte Drug Co., 200 E. Trade  
Eagle's Drug Store,  
303 S. Brevard

Delving a little further into the subject I discovered that the Latta Arcade had been the brainchild of Edward D. Latta, a South Carolina native who had moved to Charlotte in 1876. He established a retail clothing store downtown named E.D. Latta & Bros., but soon tired of that endeavor. Latta then founded the Charlotte Consolidated Construction Company and, encouraged by Charlotte's growth in the late 1800s, was one of the main participants in the large scale commercial boom preceding the Queen City's emergence as the largest city in North Carolina.



**Latta Arcade Interior**



**Latta Arcade Exterior**

Despite the building's name, the Latta Arcade was not home to pin ball or slot machines. The name was derived from the fact that the building housed numerous businesses located off both sides of a central hallway running the length of the structure, similar to the enclosed malls of today, only on a somewhat smaller scale. Designed by Charlotte architect William H. Peeps, the building was constructed by Latta's company and later housed Latta's business office for many years. Peeps was inspired by the Grand Central Palace at the Great Exhibition of London in 1851 and the design of the Latta Arcade reflected his inspirations. Located at 320 South Tryon Street in downtown Charlotte and recently renovated for use as commercial office space, restaurants, and retail sales outlets, the building is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bob King has since researched the Beatty Company and has found that the company operated a retail drug store in the Charlotte area for the years 1916 through 1921. Although I do not enjoy losing tokens out of my collection to other areas, I am pleased that this one has finally found a solid home.

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## New Finds from South Carolina

**Tony Chibbaro**

A few weeks ago I received a phone call from a gentleman in Pennsylvania. He said that he had what he believed were some rare South Carolina tokens and thought that I might be interested in knowing about them. Do bears do the proverbial digestive tract function in the woods?? Of course I was interested! He proceeded to relate a story about when he was a kid living near Bennettsville, playing outside right after a thunderstorm, and finding some tokens that had washed up out of the sand. He then said that he had three different tokens in his hand as we spoke and that they were all from the Tatum Mercantile Company of Tatum, SC. I told him on the spot that he had

three rare tokens and I would love to have some pictures of them. He agreed to get his brother to take some digital photographs and send them to me by email. I gave the gentleman my email address and patiently waited a couple of days for the photos to show up in my inbox.

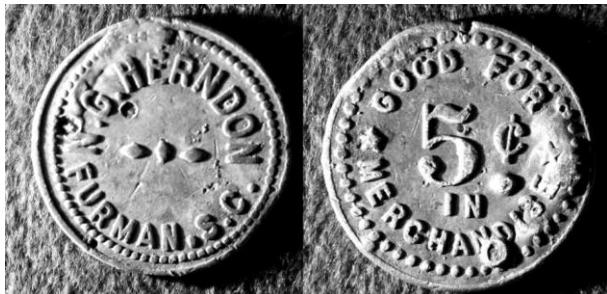


The first email I received from the gentleman's brother had attached to it only one picture file (see photo immediately above). As you can see it shows only the tokens' reverses. So after a quick reply and a wait of another couple days I finally received a photo of the obverses (pictured below).



Now I could see that all three tokens were definitely new listings. Previously I had catalogued only a single five cent token from the Tatum Mercantile Company, but I could tell that it was a different variety from the one pictured above. These three new tokens are all made of brass. The \$1.00 piece measures 31mm, while the 25¢ piece measures 26mm. The new 5¢ variety measures the same as the previously reported token at 20mm. Fortunately I was able to strike a mutually agreeable deal with the Pennsylvania gentleman and all three tokens now reside in South Carolina.

The Tatum Mercantile Company was first chartered in May of 1897 at a capitalization of \$12,000. The company lasted only five years and was out of business by 1903. A new company by the same name was chartered twenty-two years later in January of 1925. This corporation had as its president J.B. Tatum, with M.L. Hamer as secretary. Both businessmen had been in operation before in Tatum as separate entities. The new company, with a capitalization of \$10,000 sold general merchandise and is the one that was responsible for issuing the tokens. This incarnation was a little more successful than the previous one, lasting into 1933, but succumbed to the effects of the Great Depression in that year.



Two weeks later, at the Charlotte coin show, I picked up the above token for a very reasonable price. I was very happy to get it because, despite its banged-up appearance, it is the only non-

maverick token known from the town of Furman, SC. The token's obverse reads: N.G. HERNDON / FURMAN, S.C. on two lines. While the reverse of the 20mm aluminum token has the standard inscription: GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN / MERCANDISE. The only other token known from this small Hampton County hamlet is a maverick (for an illustration of W.C. Patrick's 10¢ brass token, see *Second Supplement to SC Tokens*). I couldn't wait to get home from Charlotte to look this one up, as I had a gut feeling that it might be related to the lumber industry. (I remembered that the only other token from Patrick, the one mentioned above, had been issued by a sawmill operator.)

A thorough search of the mercantile directories proved fruitless, as not one of them sported a listing for N.G. Herndon. The only Herndons listed in the directories were C.B. Herndon (general store from 1905 through 1936) and J.C. Herndon & Bro. (general store in 1913 and 1914). Checking specialized lumber directories provided nothing under the last name of Herndon. So I was not feeling very encouraged when I checked census records, but I was rewarded for my determination when I found Newton G. Herndon listed in the 1920 census with employment in Furman, SC as a logger. His relative (most likely a brother) Capers B. Herndon was shown on the same census page as a merchant.

Persistence paid off in this situation, but I found it interesting that Herndon appeared in none of my extensive collection of directories. Was his business in such a god-forsaken location that the makers of business directories feared to visit? Or could it be that his business was such that it flew "under the radar" of the directory publishers. The situation could be that Herndon had been a logging contractor, working for others by providing teams of workers to cut down and haul logs out of the woods to the railheads. If that were the case, Herndon might have had a need for a commissary out in the woods to supply his workers. On the other hand, it is equally reasonable that the tokens were to be "spent" at the store of his relative in the town of Furman, instead of at a commissary in the woods. In the former case, the commissary would have been in a location that no directory publisher was likely to visit. In the latter, no verifiable

business would have been in Herndon's name, so no directory listing would be generated. At any rate, it is interesting to speculate on such matters

from long ago. And, at this point in time, there is likely no one left alive who can provide actual answers to the questions that this token has posed.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### WANTED

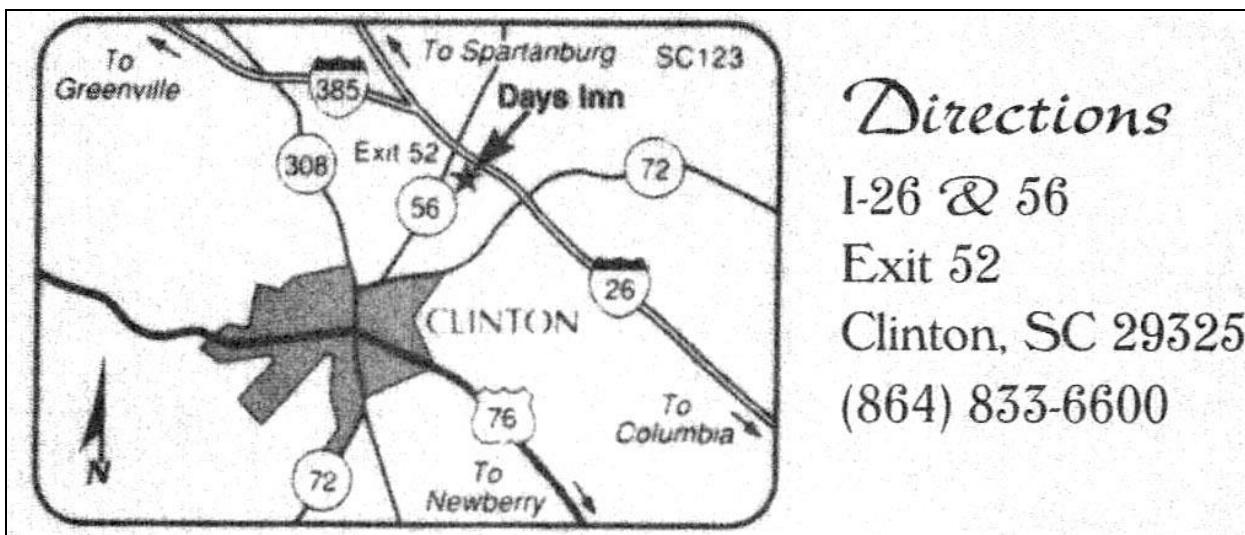
**WANTED: SOUTH CAROLINA SECTIONS OF THE 1897 AND 1898 DUN OR BRADSTREET MERCANTILE DIRECTORIES.** I will pay \$100 for original sections or \$50 for good photocopies. Please HELP! Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 Call: 803-530-3668 or email: [chibbaro@mindspring.com](mailto:chibbaro@mindspring.com).

**THANKS TO THE MEMBERS THAT HAVE SOLD TOKENS TO ME. I BUY SOUTHERN STATES TOKENS AND MAVERICKS, ESPECIALLY INGLE SYSTEM TOKENS.** Bob King, 709 Cardinal Dr, Brevard, NC 28712 [tokenaddict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenaddict@citcom.net) 828-883-8028

### SALE OR TRADE

**FOR SALE OR TRADE: 2 N.C. MILITARY TOKENS** (Seymour Johnson in Goldsboro).

1) A uniface 31 mm Johnson A.F.B. Officers Club. 2) An 18 mm JAB Rocker Club/retired pipe-smoking officer in rocker. Lamar Bland: [blandl@elon.edu](mailto:blandl@elon.edu) or 919-383-6514.



**CARTS Membership and Dues:** Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

**CARTSNEWS:** CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

**Advertising:** Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.